

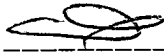
Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 2, 3, and 6 is therefore respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 2-5, and 7-9 is therefore respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claim 9 is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,




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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with proper postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 7th day of June, 1999.



Ivar M. Kaardal